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California GARDEN

The San Diego Floral Association & Garden Center

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(Continued on Page 127)

Diamond Jubilee Year

75th Year Organized June 1907

by *Allethe Macdonald*

San Diego Floral Association was organized in June, 1907, under the sponsorship of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, by a group of gardening enthusiasts. The group had been meeting regularly for horticultural discussions at Rosecroft, Alfred D. Robinson's home. San Diego at that time was not the lush subtropical area we know today.

Following Mr. Robinson's return from England where he studied the activities of the Royal Botanical Society, he advocated forming an organization on the same principles.

Mr. Robinson became the founder and president of this first garden club in southern California whose objectives were and still are, quoting our constitution, "to promote knowledge of floriculture, to stimulate intelligent love of flowers, to beautify homes, schools, and public grounds of San Diego, and to exploit the geniality of the region from the point of view of the lover of flowers."

In 1909 the *Floral Association* with the encouragement of the Chamber of Commerce started publishing *California Garden* magazine in order to better promote and achieve its objectives. One of the magazines first writers, and a charter member of *Floral*, was Kate Sessions—often called the Mother of Balboa Park. She shared her invaluable knowledge on gardening and horticulture for over 20 years and was one of the association's strongest supporters.

In March, 1910 *San Diego Floral Association* was officially incorporated.

In this the beginning of our seventy-fifth year, we are continuing to promote the objectives that were the goals of our founder and followers.

Thank you, Alfred D. Robinson! □

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN, CASA DEL PRADO, BALBOA PARK, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

The Tree Daturas

by *Steve Brigham*

Brugmansia candida with numerous pendant white blossoms. Photo by *Bill Gunther*

Steve Brigham, a specialist in subtropical trees and shrubs, is the newest addition to the staff at the Quail Botanical Gardens, in Encinitas, California.

SPECTACULAR IN FRAGRANCE and flower nearly the year around, fast-growing, and perfectly suited to our mild coastal climate—one wonders why they are not seen more often. The South American "tree daturas", known also as "Angel's Trumpets", are unsurpassed as show-stopper flowering shrubs near the house, in the garden, or even in large containers. What they do want is water, fertilizer, and perhaps a little shade—select a favorable planting site, and then stand back!

Now botanically in their own genus *Brugmansia*, the three daturas are the largest-flowered members of the Solanaceae, or Nightshade Family. They are large-leaved soft-wooded shrubs to 3 or 4 meters high, although in the garden their size can be controlled by pruning. Their huge (to 30 cm long) trumpet-shaped pendant flowers are produced in great profusion in cycles throughout the year, and they come in a variety of colors. In addition, the

flowers are powerfully fragrant at night, with the fragrance from one plant perfuming a large area on a warm evening. Although basically frost-tender, most types will survive an occasional hard frost; and even if frozen to the ground will regrow quickly as soon as the weather warms. Along the coast, they may safely be regarded as evergreen shrubs which add a tropical look to the landscape in and out of flower.

Like most members of the nightshade family, daturas are poisonous if eaten. In this case, it is their drug properties that are in part the reason for their existence, for many of our horticultural cultivars were originally hybrids or selections grown by the Andean cultures who have long used them for their hallucinogenic properties in conjunction with tribal rituals. (Lest any of our more adventuresome gardeners get any ideas here, it is noted that the potency of daturas varies greatly from plant to plant, and that anyone who eats any part of the datura plant is far more likely to get very sick than very high!)

Many readers may know tree daturas from their commonest representative in California, which is the double white-flowered form known as *Brugmansia* (or *Datura*) *candida*, which also has a single, white form. Less well known, however, are the many beautiful pastel-color forms. Several years ago I began collecting these, and my collection now includes the following color forms in addition to the single and the double white:

- Single peach-pink (*Brugmansia suaveolens*)
- Single apricot (*Brugmansia versicolor*)
- Single yellow-orange (*Brugmansia* X *insignis*)
- Single lemon-yellow
- Single white (compact growth habit)

Although the yellow-orange form is perhaps the most striking, it is a rather slow grower. The pink, yellow, and white colors grow fast from cuttings, and they bloom almost immediately, whereas the apricot one usually takes a longer time before blooming.

Currently, plant hybridizer Bartley Schwartz, of Walnut Creek, California, is in the midst of a hybridizing program involving the large species *Brugmansia aurea* (which has a powerful fragrance reminiscent of cake batter) and several of the smaller color forms of the genus. Results will hopefully come quickly because of the easy propagation both by seed and by softwood cuttings of these plants.

Let us all look forward to enjoying a summer s evening in our garden–surrounded by the tropical foliage, the sweet fragrance, and the subtle colors of the tree daturas. □

Editor's Note:
According to information received, these plants are available to the public at Quail Botanical Gardens (Encinitas, Calif.).

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Summer Vegetable Garden

THE SPRING VEGETABLES have passed their peak—it is time to start planting the summer vegetable garden. This is an excellent time to set plants of eggplant, pepper, and tomato; to plant seeds of beans, carrots; a second planting of summer squash—and do not forget corn.

To insure a better yield continue to build up the soil by adding compost and other organic materials. Spade at least full shovel depth. Soak deeply and let mellow. Before planting rake the surface to break up any crust. Do not water again until the tiny plants appear. The deep soaking before planting provides adequate moisture for the germination cycle.

Beans	**Plant any of the beans; limas can still be planted.**
Summer Squash	**Plant six or seven seeds in hills making sure water cannot stand around stems. Thin to the three strongest plants.**
Carrots	**Short stubby or half long are more satisfactory in summer. Mixing seed with sand makes planting easier. Do not let carrots dry out at any time.**
Celery	**Plants may be set out in late July. Instead of harvesting the whole plant, snip a few leaves or stalks as needed.**
Corn	**Plant in blocks of short rows for better pollination. Cornstalks for Halloween!**

A.M.

ALICE MARY CLARK
1892—1981

by *Bill Gunther*

San Diego Union photo

ALICE MARY CLARK's indominable spirit, her total devotion to beauty and creativity to the point of extravangance, and her loyalty to family, friends, and the organizations to which she belonged will live on forever.

She was admired as a talented artist; respected for being the author of many published writings, notable her book *Begonia Portraits*; and she was an outstanding gardener. Yet, with all her talents and achievements, Alice Mary Clark always had time to be a friend.

Alice's admiration of the beautiful plants that decorated the grounds of the 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition in Balboa Park awakened her awareness of the beauty of horticulture and what she could do with it.

In 1940 Alice wrote her first article for *California Garden* magazine and continued to write, illustrate, edit, and donate endless time and effort to the magazine and its parent organization, *San Diego Floral Association*, until her demise. It was only by her dauntless courage and tenacity that it was possible to continue publication during the trying times and shortages of WWII. She was editor for five years and Editor Emeritus from 1969 to 1981.

Alice Clark did not keep a record of the paintings and other art works she created during her busy life, but the total probably exceeds five hundred. They are scattered all across the country, some in private homes, some in collections, and some on display in public galleries. The *San Diego Floral Association* is honored to have one of her paintings on display in its Garden Center in Balboa Park.

Many live their lives just for themselves, contributing little or nothing to the benefit of their fellowman. A few vigorously apply their time and talents in ways which benefit the culture of the communities in which they live. Alice Mary Clark was one of these few; she leaves a lasting heritage of beauty.

San Diego Floral Association will always treasure her memory. †

BEWITCHED, BEGUILED, BAFFLED by begonias

Text by JUNE RAKESTRAW Ghost drawing of 'Sophie Cecile' by PAT MALEY

I FELL IN LOVE with begonias the day a group of garden club members toured Alice Clark's patio garden and saw her tubs of cane begonias in full bloom, towering over our heads. There was *Begonia* 'Sophie Cecile.' The sight of large lobed dark green leaves with silver splotches and dark maroon undersurface set off by huge clusters of dusty rose blooms was breathtaking. Next to that beauty was—'Robinson's Rose' covered with bright lettuce green angled leaves and numerous deep coral blooms. This begonia was hybridized by Alfred D. Robinson, founder of Rosecroft Begonia Gardens. It was Alice's visit to the gardens over fifty years ago that stimulated her never-ending enthusiasm for begonias. There were other breathtaking and exciting begonias in her collection, and as the tour continued I was enchanted and felt compelled to learn all about begonia culture.

Charles Plumier discovered the first species in Santa Domingo in 1690 and named them for his patron, Michel Begon. Most begonias originated in tropical regions of the world—places like Mexico, Brazil, New Guinea, Jamacia, Africa, and China.

According to the stars, people born under the sign Gemini, are "changeable as quicksilver and delighted by challenge" so they particularily would enjoy growing begonias because there is tremendous diversity in this plant family. Some begonias have been discovered high in the Andes and will tolerate extreme cold. *B. grandis* var. *discolor* (syn. *evansiana*) discovered in China is a hardy tuberous species that can survive New England winters. *B. grandis* and a Mexican species, *B. gracilis*, have an unusual method of self propagation—they form bulbils in the crotch were the petiole (leaf stem) and main stem meet. Begonias are propagated from leaves, stem cuttings, seed, or tubers.

The semperflorens, commonly called wax begonias or bedding begonias are easy to grow and so colorful in large mass plantings, in tubs or pots, window boxes, along walkways, around trees or fountains, and in hanging baskets. The plants vary in size from compact plants just a few inches high to larger plants 18 inches tall with larger leaves and blooms. There is a wide range of flower colors. Most of them have single blossoms; 'Ballet' and 'Pink Camellia' have large double flowers. The Japanese have one named 'Hi Ohgi' with deep bright pink blooms, another called 'Mai Ohgi' is a delicate pale pink with a margin of dark rose around the edge of each flower. The leaves are light and dark green, reddish, bronze, brownish, or variegated. Calla begonias, one of the semperflorens types, have green, white, and pink leaves and a hybrid 'Charm' has yellow, pink, and green foliage. Butterfly begonias have very large flowers and can grow to 12 inches or more in height.

'Richmondensis' is extremely rewarding; it

can easily fill a 2-foot square space. Here again, flowers and foliage varies according to growing conditions. 'Richmondensis' will have green foliage and pink blooms when grown in a shady spot; place it in the sun and the foliage will turn almost red and the flowers will be darker. I have tubs of 'Richmondensis' that flourish and bloom year round on my south and west facing patio which also gets reflected heat. I feed them slow release pellets and weak fish emulsion and occasionally foliar feed with liquid fish. In the spring a feeding of superbloom encourages profuse and larger blooms. I also work a bit of earthworm castings into the soil or purchase planter mix with castings added. I water often as they are in tubs, however, they can be neglected for a time without any ill effects. To give the plants a well groomed appearance they are pinched back occasionally; spent blooms and faded foliage are also removed.

The rex begonias were discovered in 1856 in Assam. The rexes are those spectacular begonias with silky textured gorgeous leaves, and would be grown if they never flowered. Rex leaves are indescribably beautiful, all shades of green combined with reds, pinks, purples, rust, black, brown, or silver. The smallest of these is 'Peridot,' hybridized by Michael Kartuz, a southern California hybridizer and nurseryman. I grow this plant with leaves smaller than a penny in a terrarium under grow-lights—it is a delight. The large rexes may have almost round or oval leaves, some with perfectly smooth edges and others unevenly pointed. The prettiest leaves will have a spiral and the most exquisite will have a double spiral; some of the edges will have ruffles.

Rexes are somewhat difficult to grow unless given proper growing conditions. They need filtered light (if too strong the leaves will burn), protection from wind, a porous potting mix, and regular feeding. Most begonias are drowned by well meaning owners who overwater and once the plant develops root rot, alas, there is no cure. The proper time to water is when the plant needs it, that is when the soil feels dry and crumbly to the fingertips.

The rhizomatus begonias are truly wonderful plants. While most of them are relatively easy to grow, certain ones such as *B. kenworthyi* and *B. masoniana* are more difficult. Both of these varieties require special attention and more warmth in winter. I find that *B. masoniana* grows well in a terrarium; the added protection and humidity keeps the leaves crisp and bright and prevents brown dry edges.

Tuberous begonias are exotic and exceptionally beautiful when they bloom in summer, but I have not been successful growing them because I live on a windy hill near the ocean. Repotting every spring would not dissuade my growing them if I understood their needs and could be rewarded with those marvelous flowers.

I am convinced there is a begonia for everyone. There are numerous distinctly different leaf shapes, and variations of these, some shaped like maidenhair fern, oak, peach, or grape leaves; others like pond lilies or castor beans, and even palm leaves.

The enchantment of these exciting plants never ends. It is easy to become a begonia buff. □

Eds. Note: The author has been growing begonias for a number of years and is a member of both the Alfred D. Robinson and the San Miguel branches of *American Begonia Society*.

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BOOK REVIEW

by *Russell P. MacFall*

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HORTICULTURE

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HORTICULTURE by Thomas H. Everett, Volume 4, Di to Fu, Garland Publishing Co., New York, 1981, 349 pages

NOW THAT THE arrival and the outstanding merits of the first three volumes of the *Encyclopedia of Horticulture* have been celebrated in reviews in *California Garden* magazine, its editor has decided the time had come to offer an article from the encyclopedia so that it might speak for itself. Since this is strawberry season in California, the article on Fragaria is quite timely. It reads:

FRAGARIA

Fragaria (frag-aria)—Strawberry. Strawberries cultivated for their fruits are the best-known members of this genus. There are many varieties, the result of careful selection and hybridizing over a long period of years. They are discussed under Strawberry. Here we are concerned chiefly with the wild species and varieties of them that are grown for interest and ornament.

The genus *Fragaria* belongs in the rose family *Rosaceae*. It consists of fifteen species, natives of temperate parts of Europe, Asia, North America, South America, and Hawaii. Its name comes from the Latin *fragum*, fragrant, and refers to the pleasant odor of the fruits.

Strawberries are low perennial herbaceous plants, stemless except for long runners that develop young plantlets. Their leaves characteristically have three leaflets. The flowers somewhat resemble single roses or potentillas. Typically they are white or yellowish, rarely pinkish, and are in raceme-like clusters. The termination of the stem to which the flower parts are attached, which botanists call the receptacle, enlarges and becomes fleshy after the blooms fade and forms what is popularly call the berry or fruit. The true fruits, commonly referred to as seeds, are attached to the outsides of the receptacles. In this discussion the words fruits and seeds are employed in the popular sense. Strawberry flowers normally have five sepals, five spreading petals, and numerous stamens. The fruits are red or, less commonly, white.

The chief parent of strawberries cultivated for their fruits is *F. chiloensis*. Its horticultural varieties are grouped under the name *F.* c. *ananassa*. The species is indigenous from Alaska to California, and in Chile. A compact plant, 8 inches or so tall, it has thickish leaves, slightly glossy green above and bluish-white and more or less hairy on the veins beneath. The coarsely-toothed leaflets are ovate-wedge-shaped. The white flowers, about ¾ inch in diameter, are succeeded by red fruits that have their seeds sunken in tiny pits. The fruiting stalks are shorter than the foliage. The runners mostly develop after flowering.

The American *F. virginiana*, a frailer plant than the last, develops its runners earlier. Its leaves are of thin texture and are green beneath. Borne on upright stalks usually shorter than the leaves, the clusters of ¾-inch-wide blooms are up to twelve flowers. The fruits are light red and have their seeds sunk in deep pits. Botanists

Upper: *Fragaria virginiana*
Right: *Fragaria vesca variegata*

recognize several varieties of this species, which is widely distributed throughout eastern North America to as far north as Hudson Bay.

Native of Europe and North America, *F. vesca* differs from the kinds described above in that its seeds are not in pits, but sit on the surfaces of the fruits. Also, its flowers are mostly smaller and in clusters that are usually taller than the foliage. The teeth of the leaf edges are more spreading than those of *F. chiloensis* and *F. virginiana*. The fruits of *F. vesca* are typically red, those of *F.* v. *alba*, white. There is also a variety with white-margined leaves and white berries, *F.* v. *variegata*, and one, *F.* v. *monophylla*, in which the leaves have only one leaflet.

Garden and Landscape Uses and Cultivation

Wild strawberries are obvious candidates for inclusion in native plant gardens within their natural ranges. They may also be used effectively as ground-covers and edgings. For these purposes *F. chiloensis* is particularly well adapted and so is *F. vesca variegata*. In soil that is overly rich, the latter is likely to produce green-leaved crowns. These should be removed as soon as they appear, otherwise, being stronger growers than the variegated crowns, they are likely to become predominant. Fragarias thrive in fertile, moderately moist, well-drained soil in sun. Propagation is by plantlets that develop along the runners and by seeds.

The fourth volume embraces plants and subjects from Di to Fu, or Dichelostemma, the firecracker plant, to a few pages beyond Fuchsia, which the editor prefers to pronounce fook-sia. Major articles cover *Dieffenbachia*; dividing plants; *Dracaena*; the corn plant; dried flowers; *Echeveria*; *echinocereus*; *Epidendrum* and several other types of orchids; *Epiphyllum*; *Erica*, the heaths; espalier trees; *Euonymus*; the vast family of Euphorbias; ferns in great detail; fertilizers; *Ficus*; flower beds and flower shows and *Forsythia*. Two, close to every California heart are the articles on *Eschscholzia*, the California poppy, and *Eucalyptus*, which has found a second home in California.

Lest you think this book is without sly humor, consider this entry under Digging: "In North America spading is the preferred name for the garden operation commonly known as digging in the British Isles. . . . Americans, however, refer to removing trees, shrubs and sometimes plants from the ground in readiness for transplanting as digging, for which operation the British gardener is more likely to employ the term lifting." Dig that! □

Reprint in part and photographs from
The New York Botanical Garden Illustrated—Encyclopedia of Horticulture.

MINIATURE ROSES

CULTURE—CARE—USE

Text by EARL McDANIEL Photographs by ROBERT GLADSON

Mr. McDaniel is a member of *The International Plant Propagator's Society, Inc.; Tissue Culture Association; Rose Hybridizers' Association* and is active in the *San Diego Rose Society*.

WHERE MINIATURE ROSES came from is not precisely documented, but evidence traces them back to China where roses of all types have been cultivated for thousands of years. However, miniature roses have not been found growing in the wild. These small roses came to Europe around 1800 and French and English nurseries listed several varieties as fairy roses. In the late 1920's miniatures were rediscovered growing in Switzerland by Colonel Roulet and the first introduction was named *Rosa roulettii*. Jan de Vink of Holland and Pedro Dot of Spain were the first to grow modern miniature hybrids commercially. In 1936 the first miniature to be patented in the United States was called 'Tom Thumb.'

Miniature roses have the same basic cultural requirements as full size roses, but are more cold resistant than most of the larger ones. They do best in a location with plenty of light, at least sunlight for 6 hours a day, and well prepared soil with a high percentage of organic matter.

Most nurseries sell miniatures in 3¼-inch plastic pots. Without delay, plant these newly purchased roses in the garden or repot (use good potting mix) in a gallon-size container to allow plenty of space for expansion of its root system. Remove the plant from the pot (pressure on all sides and a tap on the bottom is usually all that is needed) and check the roots. If it is rootbound, score not more than ¼ inch deep, down one or two sides of the root ball with a sharp knife or razor blade. Scoring will cause the plant to send out new feeder roots.

Miniature roses, in the United States, are all grown from cuttings, hence they grow on their own root system. Because there is no bud union, set the bush slightly deeper when planting in the ground or container, than it was originally so more roots will develop and the plant will be sturdier in the container. Space the smallest varieties about 12 inches apart and 18 to 20 inches for the larger ones. Many of the miniatures will grow quite large when planted in the ground and will need heavy pruning to keep the bushes small.

Watering is one phase of rose culture that is most likely to be taken for granted. Plenty of water is important; to quote a rosarian, "Roses love water, but can't stand wet feet." Stagnant water contains very little oxygen; packed soil, too, tends to starve the plant of oxygen.

Lightly fertilize transplanted roses in three to four weeks; roses require only a moderate amount of fertilizer. Start with a balanced fertilizer such as one with a formula of 10-10-10 or 13-13-13. At blooming time change to a fertilizer with at least twice as much phosphorus as nitrogen, a 5-10-10 formula may be used.

If a pest or disease control becomes necessary here are some guidelines. Blackspot and mildew can be controlled by a weekly spraying with a fungicide, starting at pruning time. Spray burn may occur if used during extreme hot weather, on tender young foliage, or in combination with another spray. Good rust control can be achieved by spraying the underside of leaves and the ground four times a year (one in April) with a combination of dithane and benlate. As a spreader use a few drops of liquid detergent to a gallon of spray. There are good miticides available if red spider becomes a problem. Regular spraying daily with a fine mist of water early in the morning during the warm months can keep most pests and disease under control. Be sure to cover thoroughly the underside of all leaves.

Pruning is essentially the same as for large

MINIATURE ROSES 袖珍玫瑰花

UPPER: 'My Valentine'
RIGHT: 'Dresden Doll'

roses. Miniatures can be pruned back severely in December to January, as much as one-half to two-thirds of total growth of the plant. Clean out center of bush as necessary to provide good air circulation and light.

• CULTURE FOR ROSES IN CONTAINERS

Plants grown outdoors in containers require the same culture as miniatures planted in the garden except they require water more frequently; daily watering on very hot days.

Miniature roses have been grown outdoors and require special care if they are to be grown successfully indoors. Two essential requirements are humidity and light. They can be grown in a sunny window or 6 inches under fluorescent light for a minimum of 14 hours a day. It is important to slowly adjust these roses to indoor culture. To provide adequate humidity the pots may be placed on pebbles in a shallow tray of water or placed on indoor-outdoor carpeting that is kept wet.

Light indoor potting mix for good drainage is also essential. Water thoroughly after repotting and then often enough so the soil always feels moist to the touch. Do not use chemically softened water. It is better to use very weak fertilizer with each watering than larger amounts infrequently, or a monthly program of feeding with reduced strength fertilizer may be followed.

Miniature roses have a long blooming season. In containers, these beauties are a welcome substitute for the rose lover who has moved into a condominimum with a balcony, mobile home, or the small gardens prevalent today. A patio can become an instant rose garden using redwood boxes, tubs, and hanging baskets. Miniatures display better in raised beds, but they make lovely borders for larger roses, and along driveways and garden paths. For a dramatic display use them in a pyramid garden built in tiers. □

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SALAD HERBS

by *Rosalie Garcia*

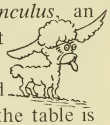
THE USE OF herbs goes back farther than written history and may have been the beginning of man's becoming an omnivorous being. We know that in ancient times bay branches, along with some of the conifers, were used in the preservation of meats. After a side of beef or a boar was roasted and cooled it was covered in a pit with branches of trees and those with fragrant leaves became the favorites. In colder regions dried leaves and plants were hung up in caves and used in the stews that simmered over fires both inside and outside the dwellings. The fact that they had very strong flavors was in their favor, for the meat was often none too fresh.

How does one know herbs? How can one tell them from other plants? One can't. Those plants used especially for medicine, aroma, and seasoning are called herbs. Some of these plants are used as vegetables (the onion); some used for medicine are also used in cookery (the opium poppy, *Papaver somniferum*). Poppy seeds are sprinkled on rolls and used in cakes. The opium is derived from the juice of the green seed pod.

How does one know which herbs to plant? Unless one has acquired certain tastes, it will have to be a matter of experimentation until one settles on a few favorites. Few cooks use more than a dozen herbs, and for salads one can narrow it down to less than that.

We in southern California are addicted to salads. We will make a salad from almost any food. I have not heard of salad breakfasts, but there are salad luncheons, and even entire dinners. These salads usually include green herbs and the dressings almost always are seasoned with herbs. Many people will tell you they do not care for herbs, but they relish the sauces, dressings, and seasonings on foods in our fine restaurants. Most of the herbs they use have been dried and ground very fine, but to enjoy even more the delicate enticing flavor of herbs use them fresh from the garden.

Gourmets make a solemn ritual of the green salad. It begins with a firm crisp green head of iceberg lettuce or romaine. It is washed, separated, and crisped in ice water. It must be drained and patted dry before being torn into bite-size pieces. A wooden salad bowl that is never washed is brought out and rubbed with cloves of fresh-cut garlic (a sprig of rosemary or oregano is sometimes added). Then two or three tablespoons of pure fresh olive oil is poured into the bowl. Gradually the lettuce is tossed until it is all coated with oil, then an herbed vinegar is sprinkled over and tossed in. This vinegar is often flavored with tarragon, *Artemisia dracunculus*, an herb that to me tastes terrible except to flavor vinegar.



Another variation of the green salad that waiters in restaurants often make at the table is Caesar salad. It starts with no more than two tablespoons of olive oil in the bowl; some torn lettuce is added and when there are a few coated pieces, a raw egg is broken over the salad and the tossing and adding of lettuce continues. The trick to this is to keep the oil and the egg evenly distributed as one adds more lettuce and keeps up the tossing. (It can turn out to be a mess if that fails.) Then the herbed vinegar or fresh lemon or lime juice is sprinkled over it and some seasoned salt and pepper is added.

The herbed vinegars really make these salads. One can make them by using good fruit vinegars, diluted and slightly sweetened, and adding strong flavored herbs and a bud of garlic. Let it stand for about two weeks. Hot peppers can be included if a real kick is desired.

Herbs can be added to lettuces and other

salad greens such as spinach, young leaves of mustard, chard, and turnip, and curls of carrot, red and green cabbage, and the like. I keep a jar of chopped herbs—they will keep four to five days in the refrigerator—and sprinkle lightly over any food that seems to need some "inspiration." Green onion tops finely chopped add good flavor to potatoes, spaghetti or noodles, and eggs.

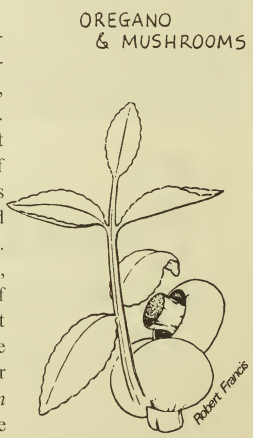
Sweet basil and nasturtiums are two annuals that one can have all year. Basil is supposed to be an annual, but I have a plant in its third year, kept growing by pinching off the blossoms. The common green bush basil, *Ocimum basilicum*, has the most delicate flavor even if it is not as ornamental as 'Dark Opal,' which is a kind of purple. I grow 'Dark Opal' in order to have a leaf to put in herbed vinegar; it makes the most beautiful amethyst-colored vinegar for my cruet, a real table decoration. There are large-leaved bush varieties that look sturdier, but I prefer this little green one.

Many think of nasturtiums as weeds because they cascade down our canyons in spring, climb the fences, and take over the garden if not curbed. They are among our most edible herbs—the leaves, stems, flowers, and seeds; the whole plant except the roots—all are piquant additions to a salad. The spicy juices, the crisp texture, the velvety flowers, and the crunchy seeds in pickles are taste teasers. The nasturtium, *Tropaeolum majus*, should be more appreciated. A bread and butter sandwich with some tender leaves and stems becomes a treat to go with a green salad or meat loaf.

Even the common marigold, *Calendula officinalis*, can provide some petals to toss into the salad, adding a dimension of flavor one never expected.

Too many people think of parsley as just pretty green sprigs for garnishes. Parsley and its relatives belong to a big family that provides a great range of seasonings as well as textures to add interest to innumerable dishes. Of the nearly two thousand species of the carrot family we use no more than five or six. As Mexican cooking becomes more popular we have met, and many of us like, the parsley relative with the strongest and most distinctive flavor—cilantro, *Coriandrum sativum*. Cilantro is available in our markets, usually in limp bunches, not like the crisp fresh sprigs from a home garden. The seeds of cilantro are called coriander. Another herb much like cilantro is caraway, *Carum carvi*. We sprinkle its seeds over potato salads and sauerkraut.

For a dash of anise flavor, nothing is better than the common fennel that one seldom sees except in the wild. A tiny fennel plant came through plastic and gravel in my small garden where it gets water and is so ferny, beautiful, and big that I can hardly see out. Last year it got about 10 feet tall and this year it may be wider and taller. Anise is not one of my favorite flavors, however, a few pinches in mayonnaise or in salad do not dominate but seem to blend and enhance.



A shrub that will furnish tips for flavoring is rosemary, *Rosmarinus officinalis*, either the prostrate or shrub. The flavor is strong and is best used sparingly, even a rub of the salad bowl is sometimes enough. As our old cook used to say it is a "bossy" herb. Another bossy herb is oregano, *Origanum vulgare*, a favorite of the Mediterranean people. It too, is better rubbed on the bowl or chopped with other herbs. Marjoram, *Origanum majorana* (*hortensis*), more commonly used in gardens, is a little different from oregano—milder and less likely to overpower other flavors.

The bulbous garlic, *Allium sativum*, is strong in flavor, repulsive to many, and to be avoided in quantity, but rubbing the salad bowl with a cut clove is effective without being too overwhelming. Another plant with garlic flavor, decorative enough for the flower garden is *Tulbaghia violacea*, known as society garlic very likely because its scent of garlic is less offensive and can get by in refined social circles. This garlic is somewhat like a leek with no real bulb, but a clump of multiplying roots and flat leaves. A few leaves chopped up in dressings for salads or in

cream cheese enhance the flavor and may convert the real garlic haters.

Adding a sour note that is both exciting and different is one of the sorrels, the most common garden variety being *Rumex acetosa*. Even more exotic is the French sorrel, *Rumex scutatus*.

To add a new dimension to your gustatory experience, start by using green herbs in salads. Seeking new uses for herbs can be an endless quest and a new horizon for living. □

I still find an old book, *Gardening With Herbs for Flavor and Fragrance* by Helen Morgenthau Fox (republished in paperback), to be one of the best on herbs. It gives history, uses, and culture of the common herbs.—*Rosalie*

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ARRANGEMENTS

BY ADRIENNE GREEN

BOTTOM: YELLOW IRIS WITH REDDISH KANGAROO PAWS IN A NATURAL-COLORED JAPANESE BASKET.

CENTER: GREEN CALLA LILY AND DRIED GUINEA GOLD VINE IN A OFF-WHITE CONTAINER BY SHIRLEE KIMSEY.

TOP: PALE YELLOW IRIS AND DRIED KIWI VINE IN CONTAINER WITH BROWN TONES. CONTAINER BY SHIRLEE KIMSEY.

DICHONDRA

by *George James*

Photos by *Bill Gunther*

THAT HANDSOME GREEN lawn down the block, as green in midwinter as in midsummer, is most likely a dichondra lawn. Dichondra is a creeping plant often used as an evergreen ground cover or as a lawn. It has small roundish leaves of bright green and tiny flowers that develop below the leaves. The plant spreads by runners growing on top of the ground. It is hardy to 25° F.

Dichondra can be grown in full sun or in locations having half a day's sun. Residential lawns often receive differents amounts of sun in different areas and as a result the growth will vary. The taller growth in the shade can be mowed as needed and can be cut as close to the soil as possible, as long as the surface runners are not cut. In deeper shade the growth is weak and spindly, and the leaves become larger. A dichondra lawn should be considered for its appearance and not its sturdiness, since it does not stand foot traffic as well as most of the blade grasses.

• DICHONDRA FROM SEED

Dichondra can be grown from seed planted at the rate of one pound to 500 square feet of area. Less seed can be used, but it will take longer to grow a dense lawn. The best time to plant is from March to June, when it is warm enough for the seed to germinate well, yet the seedlings will have time to develop strong root systems before the hot weather arrives. The seed should be scattered evenly over the surface of the soil. A mechanical spreader will do the best job, but if one is not available, punch holes in a mayonnaise jar lid with a nail, and use like a salt shaker; it will do a good job. Cover the seed lightly by raking, then apply a thin mulch of fine organic matter, and if possible, roll the area. Water carefully, applying water for only a few seconds to each spot and then moving on to

Above: A CLOSE-UP PHOTO ILLUSTRATES THE ATTRACTIVE SHAPE OF INDIVIDUAL DICHONDRA LEAVES.

Opposite: A GREEN CARPET OF DICHONDRA (foreground) SETS THE STAGE FOR A COOL GARDEN FOUNTAIN.

another. This gives the water a chance to soak in. If it collects on the surface it will start to run and wash away the seed. Water frequently enough so the surface of the soil never becomes dry, several times a day if needed. After germination has finished, the waterings can be spaced further and further apart as the root systems of the seedlings grow larger, until in about three weeks the waterings are being made at intervals of five to seven days, but more water will be used in each watering.

• DICHONDRA FROM PLUGS

Dichondra lawns can also be planted from plugs, which require less frequent waterings in the beginning than seed. Squares 1 to 2 inches on a side are cut from a flat of dichondra or an existing planting. These are planted in soil prepared as described below, spaced 6 to 12 inches apart each way. Set the plugs so their surface soil is even with or just below the level of the soil in the garden. Firm the soil tightly around the plugs and water when finished; usually one watering a day will be all that is needed. As the roots become established the waterings can be less frequent.

• PEST CONTROL

The flea beetle is a foliage pest of dichondra. It is small, black, and active, and when disturbed by a hand on an infested lawn, the beetles will crawl onto the hand. Lawns damaged by beetles feeding on the foliage turn brown and look as though water is needed or fertilizer damage has occurred.

Cutworms also attack dichondra, feeding close to the ground; this causes thin or bare spots. If you suspect these pests are present, consult your nurseryman for the best control material to use and follow all directions given. Both of these pests are likely to appear again the next season so be prepared to start treatment before the damage is serious.

Slugs and snails can also be problems. When a large infestation occurs many leaves are severed and either eaten or left to wither and turn brown; the lawn is weakened and its appearance is spoiled. These pests can be controlled by the snail baits used in other parts of the garden. Note that the pellet forms may cause discolored spots where the pellets break up; there is less danger of this if a meal product is used.

Dichondra can also be attacked by a fungus that causes small black spots to appear on the leaves. This can be controlled with the preparations sold to control diseases in lawns.

CAUTION: Some brands of dichondra fertilizer contain materials for the control of insects and disease as well as food and weed control elements. When there are both insects and diseases present at the same time such a product is useful, but if such a product is used when not needed it may create other problems. The most likely one is that the insecticide will kill some of the beneficial insects that feed on the harmful ones.

• FERTILIZING

The best and safest material to use (dichondra is easily damaged by a strong fertilizer) is a commercial fertilizer especially prepared for this purpose. This will have all the plant food elements dichondra needs and is least likely to damage. Some of these

fertilizers contain material that will inhibit the growth of weeds by killing seedlings as they sprout, but bear in mind that most of these materials will also kill sprouting dichondra seeds. For this reason they should not be used until dichondra germination has been completed or on lawns that are forming seed. Dichondra reseeds itself periodically.

A light application of fertilizer may be made as soon as dichondra seed germination is completed. Dichondra plugs can be fed as soon as planted.

Spread the fertilizer over the lawn while the foliage is dry and water so the fertilizer is washed off the leaves and through the runners to the soil below. A liquid fertilizer applied with a hose-end applicator can be used and this need not be washed in as the plant will take the food through its leaves and stems.

• GENERAL CARE OF ESTABLISHED DICHONDRA

Dichondra does require more water than grass. Enough water should be applied to wet the soil deeper than 6 inches with each irrigation. During the warm months usually it is necessary to irrigate twice a week.

To keep the deep green color, fertilize frequently in warm weather when there is active growth. Adequate fertilizer also helps prevent the plants from going to seed prematurely. A schedule of four to six or in some cases eight applications, with the first one in February and the last feeding in late September or early October to provide food for development during the slower growth period, should be adequate.

Dichondra sets its seeds on short stems that grow from the surface runners and when this happens the leaves die and the planting becomes bare. This cannot be prevented and when it happens the area should be mulched with organic material to protect the runners and hide the seeds from the birds. While the plant is without leaves it will need less water so reduce irrigations, but not to the point the plants will suffer. In a surprisingly short time the plants will develop new foliage, the seeds will also sprout, and things will return to normal again.

Develop a schedule of watering and fertilizing to fit the needs of your own lawn and you will have that handsome year-round green lawn that is the pride of the neighborhood.

SOIL PREPARATION

Lawns, whether grass or dichondra, will grow better if the soil is well prepared before planting. In properly prepared soil plants can develop strong and deep root systems. They will not only grow quicker and stronger, but will be better able to withstand adverse conditions. Soil preparation should include the following steps:

1. Remove debris from construction or previous planting; level if necessary.

2. Water well, unless already moist enough to dig or rototill.

3. Turn soil deeply when it no longer sticks to tools or feet—at least 6 inches, 8 to 10 inches is better.

4. Mix in, while turning, liberal amounts of organic matter, at least one part to three or four of soil. If the soil is to be dug 8 inches deep, a 2-inch layer of humus should be mixed in. Peat moss, compost, or a commercial humus made from waste wood are satisfactory. (A limited amount of manure can be included—large amounts add growth-inhibiting salts.) Gypsum is a good additive for clay or adobe soil—makes it less sticky.

5. Rake to break clods, to remove any rocks or debris, and level somewhat.

6. Soak again to moisten 8 to 10 inches deep and to compact or settle the soil.

7. When no longer sticky, rake to break surface crust and to create a soft seedbed.

8. Level by dragging a timber across the area in both directions, lowering high spots and filling low spots, until the surface is fairly level.

9. A final raking creates a layer of loose soil. Now it is ready to plant.

IF THE SOIL is of a nature that is difficult to rake to the fine consistency required for a seedbed, the use of additional topsoil should be considered. The decision to use topsoil should be made early in the project so that the grade, if necessary, can be lowered to leave room for the topsoil. Provide enough topsoil to cover the area 4 inches deep. Before

spreading it, prepare the subsoil as described above, including the leveling, for if the prepared soil is uneven, the growth on it will be uneven no matter how much care is given. Spread 2 inches of topsoil over the prepared subsoil and rake to mix the two together. This will create a transition layer that water and roots will penetrate better. Spread the remaining topsoil over this and if there is no organic matter with the topsoil, some should be added. Water the area again to settle it before planting. □

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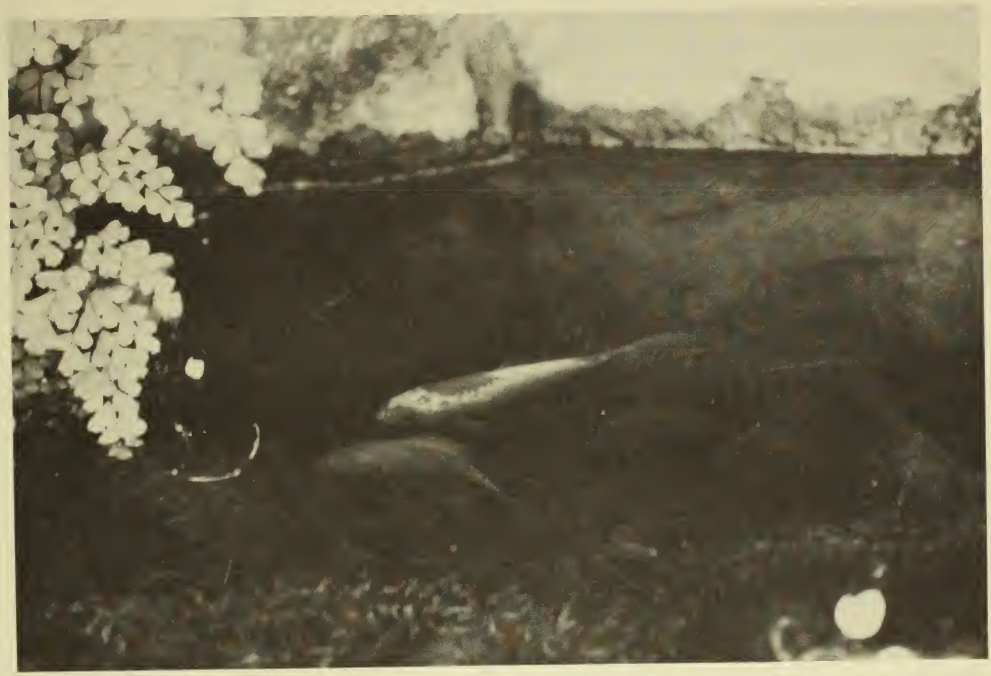
Of Fishponds, Waterlilies, Algae

by *Sharon Siegan*



A FROND OF MAIDENHAIR FERN OVERHANGS A GARDEN POOL WITH WATER SO CLEAR THAT THE FISH APPEAR TO BE AT THE SURFACE

ENVISION A WATER GARDEN: goldfish flashing color as they dart among the flat green circles from which arise brilliantly hued lilies; serenity; contemplation; mysterious reflections upon the sparkling waters.

Unfortunately there is a spoiler–a blight nurtured by sunshine that casts a slimy green pall upon the water–algae! It builds up on the sides of planters and pool; it turns the water murky.

How can one combat this invasive scourge? Apply liquid chlorine bleach? Yes, if you wish to have a sterile pool; chlorine is fatal to life. (There are less lethal algicides–copper sulfate, arguricide, cutrine, but all require careful control and caution.) Periodically drain and scour the pond and everything in it? This is a major chore recommended as a last resort.

A more effective solution is ecological balance. In order to understand this concept we must understand the nature of the algae enemy. Algae are airborne spores that begin developing into primitive green plants upon contact with water. They contain chlorophyll and photosynthesize water and carbon dioxide (CO_2) releasing oxygen. Algae can therefore be controlled by eliminating sunlight, water or CO_2. Since the first alternatives are impractical, we will focus on CO_2. Fortunately there are many measures which can be taken to reduce CO_2 in a fish/lily pond.

Let us examine the causes of CO_2 buildup. It is a natural byproduct of organic decomposition, so dead leaves, fish droppings, and other pool debris should be removed regularly. A pool sweep will gather up the accumulated waste on pool bottom and sides. Picking off faded flowers and leaves will also help. This is a part of good grooming that will naturally enhance the appearance of your pond. But there are also scavengers that will work for you. Water snails feed on decaying vegetation and fish waste; some will even dine on algae. The recommended types are Ramshorn and Japanese trap-door snails. Ordinary garden snails that have accidentally toppled into the pool will seemingly readily acclimate. However, they prefer their customary diet of tender young leaves and flower buds. So if your water snails look like those feeding on your callas and other land plants, destroy them before they destroy your water plants.

Although fish add to CO_2 with their waste, they more than compensate by ingesting algae. For years the fish in our pond have banqueted exclusively on algae and whatever other insects, aphis, mosquito larvae have come their way. While they have not noticeably impeded algae growth, they have rid the pond of those insects which otherwise might have become a serious nuisance.

Perhaps the most useful addition to the pond are the oxygenating grasses, the most popular of which is anacharis,water weed. These grasses, which also include sagitarria, arrow head (miniature and standard), cabomba, water-shield, and vallisneria, ell grass, grow completely submerged. They, like the algae, photosynthesize CO_2 and water, releasing oxygen bubbles as a byproduct. Growing rapidly, they can effectively compete for CO_2, reducing the amount available to the algae. Oxygenating grasses, with their feathery forms, create an attractive accent. They may be rooted in dirt, or tied and weighted without being potted. Fish too, delight in these grasses, spawning in them, and often nibbling them as a delicacy. If your grasses seem in danger of becoming a fish dietary staple, protect them with a wire mesh dome.

Water hyacinths, with their strange ballooned stems and showy lilac bloom clusters are living filters, capturing algae in their free-floating roots. Often they do not overwinter, even in our mild climate.

Perhaps surprisingly, waterlilies also inhibit algae growth. Proliferating pads insulate the water, preventing the heat buildup that encourages algae formation. Again, the greater the area covered by the lilies, the less is available for algae spores to settle and grow on. To promote healthy lilies with lush pads,

THE VOLUPTUOUS PETIOLES OF THE WATER HYACINTH ACT AS FLOATS TO HOLD ITS GLOSSY LEAVES UP OUT OF THE WATER

fertilizing is a must. This can be done monthly, or twice annually—before new growth starts (or when originally planted or repotted), and about the middle of the growing season. For our area, this is February/March and August for hardy lilies, a bit later for those known as tropicals. There is a specially formulated (20-10-5 plus mineral additives) slow-release fertilizer tablet that simplifies this procedure.

This then, is ecological balance—a pond or pool containing the various life forms so interacting that they promote a healthy environment for each other, and in so doing keep algae to a minimum. If you wish to calculate the composition of the various elements, an aquatic garden supplier suggests for each

square yard of pond surface: 2 bunches of oxygenating grasses; 1 medium to large water lily, 12 water snails and 2 fish (4 to 5 inches).

Even with this mix of animal and plant life, your pool may still suffer from algae. There are some mechanical devices you may try. One is a filter system using activated charcoal. Another involves aerating water to break up algae and prevent growth. This latter can be effectively accomplished by a pump that recycles your water. You may choose to have a fountain, waterfall, or simply a spout, but in any case the splashing water adds another dimension to your pool enjoyment. It also creates a potential problem—constantly changing water levels may retard plant growth.

The simplest way to aerate and clean the pool surface is with a garden hose. Allow the water to rise above the overflow pipe on the drain and much algae and other debris will be sucked out. Exercise care in the amount of fresh water introduced; it must be small enough each time that the chlorine is very diluted. Even with limited daily additions, there will be a certain amount of fish attrition.

Now that you have applied all of the above suggestions, your pond has emerged as a thing of beauty—stripped of algae. Or has it? If it has been several years since a major cleaning, brace yourself for a thorough draining, scouring operation. This will require bleach, elbow grease, and a considerable amount of planning.

Let's start with the planning and timing. The best time to clean a pool is after the autumn hot spell or in early spring (when the rains are over) and the plants are still dormant while the goldfish have not yet begun to breed.

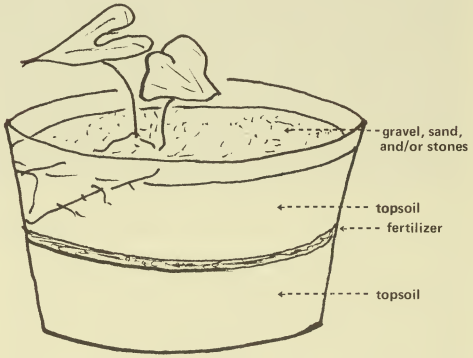
Before tackling the pond, examine the surrounding landscaping. Remove or prune back whatever plants are likely to shed (leaves, fruit, blossoms) into the pool. Ground covers too should be trimmed back beyond the water's edge.

The cleaning operation involves several separate and distinct chores. First there is the fish removal, then there is planter care which should include repotting, and finally there is the actual cleaning.

Starting with the fish, you will need a container large enough to shelter them comfortably for several days. A child's wading pool, clean plastic garbage can or similar container will suffice. Place it in a shady spot and fill with water. This is easily done with a garden hose. Now let the chlorine settle out—which will take about 24 hours—and then you are ready to transfer your fish. (There are chemicals that inactivate chlorine, but it is safer just to let the water stand.) If this temporary shelter is accessible to cats and/or birds, screen the top for protection.

You will find that netting fish is easier done in shallow water, so wait until the pond is mostly drained. Handle the fish very gently, allowing them to swim out of the net once you have lowered it into the holding basin.

Waterlilies, bog plants, lotus, and any other aquatic greenery tend to grow rather rampantly in our climate, requring annual pruning and/or repotting. It is easiest of course, to use new plastic planters, and since some of your containers will probably not clean up well, you may want some replacements. In any event, containers are cleaned better empty. First remove all stones and gravel used as topping and discard the old soil. Place the stones and gravel in a container of pure bleach and allow to sit in the sun; they will then be ready to be washed thoroughly over plastic screening, and reused.



HARDY LILY REPOTTING

Waterlilies can be repotted with garden soil mixed with a little bone meal, and steer manure, but it is preferable to use a specially designed and balanced aquatic fertilizer. Fill all planters halfway with good topsoil (but never planter mix because the lightweight particles will float up and soil the water). Now spread the aquatic fertilizer. Continue to fill

HARDY LILY RHIZOME
(SHOWING 45° ANGLE CUT)

IN THIS GARDEN POOL, FRAMED WITH FOLIAGE ARE FLOWERS, WATER LILY PADS ARE INTERSPERSED WITH WHITE BLOOMS OF WATER PLANT ANACHARIS.

with topsoil until about 2 to 3 inches below the rim. All aquatic plants should be centered except for hardy waterlilies. Hardy waterlily rhizomes should be cut about six inches behind the growing tip. Then the cut end is set at a 45° angle against a side of the planter, with the rhizome lying horizontally, crown rising above the soil. Topsoil should be covered with washed builder's sand, decorative stones, or gravel, to about a half inch depth to prevent it from rising and clouding the water. Finally the tops should be flushed gently until the water runs clear, and then the clean filled pots are ready to be returned to a clean pool.

You have probably been cleaning your containers and repotting while waiting for the pool to drain. Some take several hours to reach a level where it is easy to capture the fish and water snails. Naturally your drain opening was covered with mesh to prevent clogging from spilled stones or confused fish.

Both pool and containers are best cleaned with liquid bleach. Supermarket bleach works, but has a much lower chlorine concentration than that purchased in a swimming pool supply store. The latter is more dangerous but more efficient. In either case you will require protection—plastic or rubber gloves and boots and coveralls impervious to splashed bleach. The bleach can be poured into a shallow non-metal bowl, and everything scrubbed with a firm bristle brush dipped into bleach. The sun helps to oxidize algae and the residue can be hosed down. Stubborn spots may require a second application.

When everything is clean, return the planters to the pool at their appropriate position and gently flood their tops. Now cap the drain and fill the pool. Again, it is better to wait a day before returning the fish. For the first week they will require fish food!

Oh yes, the algae will gradually form, and you will have to be on the alert to maintain that ecological balance that promises enjoyment of a placid pond or jeweled pool. □

Photographs by *BILL GUNTHER*

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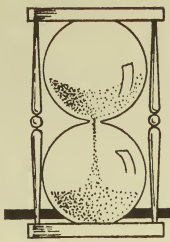


NOW IS THE TIME

BEGONIAS Margaret Lee

Now is the time–

- ✓ to feed begonias to keep them blooming.
- ✓ to check for insects, snails, slugs, and fungus.
- ✓ to check for mildew, and spray with a fungicide for control.
- ✓ to feed tuberous begonias with Hi-Bloom and one tablespoon of fish emulsion to each gallon of water.
- ✓ to take cuttings.
- ✓ to repot to next size if needed.

BONSAI Dr. Herbert Markowitz

Now is the time–

- ✓ to water, WATER–but check NOT to over-water. During these hot months it is best to water early in the day, but some bonsai may need two or three waterings on hot dry days.
- ✓ to protect some plants by moving into a shaded area out of direct sun.
- ✓ to check for insects and pests; spray with a diluted spray. (Be careful of elm trees–they usually do not need spraying.)
- ✓ to move some trees so they get only half day sun.
- ✓ to wait until September or October to transplant bonsai.
- ✓ to remove excess blooms from trees to save their strength for next year. Also defoliate some of the deciduous varieties in July–no later.

BROMELIADS (Pineapple Family) Dr. Norman Lurie

Now is the time–

- ✓ to keep cups clean to prevent rot.
- ✓ to protect tender plants from hot sun.
- ✓ to water frequently when there are dry hot winds–do not let plants dry out.
- ✓ to feed with half-strength balanced fertilizer.
- ✓ to remove off-sets for additional plants.
- ✓ to maintain insect and snail control program.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS Rick Latimer

Now is the time–

- ✓ to make sure window-sill grown plants do not get too hot.
- ✓ to give many cacti an evening spray each day, but water the roots only when they are dry and never when they are still wet from their last watering. Cactus spines often collect dew. Many desert cacti like dry heat during the day, and humidity at night.
- ✓ to water thoroughly allowing water to drain out the hole(s) in bottom of pot. Shallow watering encourages salt and alkaline buildup on the plant and rim of the pot.
- ✓ to not allow opuntias, euphorbias, and echeverias to dry out completely at this time of year.
- ✓ to look for yellow aphids on ceropegia and stapeliad buds.
- ✓ to check stapeliad roots for root mealy. Act now, as these touchy succulents cannot be given insecticides when they are dormant.
- ✓ to enjoy night-time blooms of hylocereus and selenicereus and the blooms of trichocereus and opuntia.

CAMELLIAS Les Baskerville

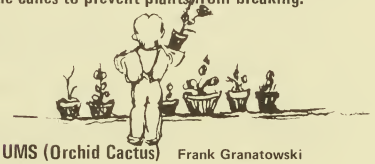
Now is the time–

- ✓ to still do a light pruning of unwanted branches.
- ✓ to stake any long new growth.
- ✓ to inspect for aphids or loopers; spray with malathion.
- ✓ to feed with cottonseed meal, liquid fish, or other camellia fertilizers; give regular feeding at 6 to 8 weeks intervals.
- ✓ to establish a regular watering program as hot weather begins. Do not allow root zones to completely dry out–keep damp, NOT wet.
- ✓ to mulch with an inch-thick application of redwood compost.
- ✓ to feed plants iron three times a year.

DAHLIAS Abe Janzen

Now is the time—

- ✓ to continue a regular watering program.
- ✓ to feed with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.
- ✓ to spray for insects and mildew; keep slugs and snails away also.
- ✓ to disbud for quality blooms.
- ✓ to keep old blooms cut off; cut back to first set of leaves from the main stalk to prolong blooming.
- ✓ to tie canes to prevent plants from breaking.



EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus) Frank Granatowski

Now is the time—

- ✓ to fertilize plants that have completed their blooming cycle with fish emulsion, slow release nitrogen fertilizer, or your favorite plant food—DO NOT OVERFEED.
- ✓ to remove spent blooms and unwanted apples that may have formed in order to conserve the plant's vitality.
- ✓ to transplant to larger pots those plants that have outgrown their present containers; transplant 4-inch to an 8-inch or 1-gallon pot; a gallon pot into a 10-inch or 2-gallon one. If you have the garden space, it is advisable to use hanging pots rather than to trellis your hybrids.
- ✓ to plant new cuttings during the warm weather.
- ✓ to remember to water hybrids during the hot summer months, and remember an occasional spraying or misting of the plants is very beneficial. DO NOT allow soil to dry out completely.
- ✓ to maintain plants in their proper environment, such as a lath house, under shade cloth, or suspended from branches of trees. AVOID direct exposure to the sun.
- ✓ to learn and benefit from mistakes made in the last year, and to look forward to a more productive blooming season in the next.

FERNS Ray Sodomka

Now is the time—

- ✓ to remove dead fronds.
- ✓ to plant fern spore.
- ✓ to water and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp.
- ✓ to fertilize plants regularly as they are in their growing period. Use a high-nitrogen fertilizer.
- ✓ to spray for aphids and scale; keep snails, pill bugs, and slugs under control.

FUCHSIAS William Selby

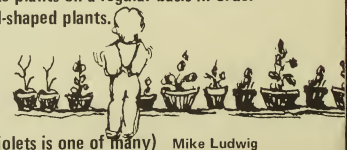
Now is the time—

- ✓ to keep spent blooms and seed pods picked off for more and larger blooms.
- ✓ to keep all leaves, blossoms, and other trash cleaned up to prevent fungus and disease.
- ✓ to watch NOT to over-water—keep damp but not wet.
- ✓ to fertilize regularly with high-phosphorous for buds and blooms.
- ✓ to keep the foliage misted; spray only in the shade or early evening.
- ✓ to prune lightly to encourage more blooms in the fall.
- ✓ to spray to control insects—Orthene will control most species of pests: aphids, leafhoppers, caterpillars, and leaf miners. It seems effective against flower pests—thrips, scale, whitefly, mites, and mealybugs.

GERANIUMS Carol Roller

Now is the time—

- ✓ to water thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Keep foliage as dry as possible.
- ✓ to continue feeding with a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water, using at half the recommended strength twice as often as directed on the label, or at half strength as often as needed in order to keep plants growing well.
- ✓ to continue a disease and pest control program, using all products according to the manufacturers' directions. Never apply chemicals to a dry plant.
- ✓ to groom plants by removing old discolored leaves and faded flowers. Some types, such as regals, have long bloom stalks which should be cut away with a sharp blade.
- ✓ to take cuttings which have healthy growing tips.
- ✓ to protect tender plants from the sun if temperatures are high.
- ✓ to continue to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.



GESNERIADS (African Violets is one of many) Mike Ludwig

Now is the time—

- ✓ to keep plants blooming by removing dead flowers.
- ✓ to take proper action against invading pests.
- ✓ to water regularly. Achimenes will go dormant if they are allowed to dry.
- ✓ to protect plants from the sun. Try to keep temperatures below 90° F. in growing area. This will keep plants happy and give you a place to retreat.
- ✓ to enjoy the plants you are growing. Don't keep so many that their care becomes a chore.

HERMEROCALLIS (Daylily) Lawrence Smith

Now is the time—

- ✓ to irrigate regularly. During hot weather it is best to water early in the morning or late evening.
- ✓ to fertilize to promote rebloom. At this time of year, organic fertilizers such as cottonseed meal or fish (meal or liquid) seem especially effective.
- ✓ to combat alkali and salt buildup in the soil (most common in heavy soil) if plants show leaf burn or chlorosis. An effective quick-acting control is liquid lime-sulphur.
- ✓ to control aphids, earwigs, and/or sow-bugs; use a systemic spray or drench according to manufacturers' directions. CAUTION: do not use near food producing plants.
- ✓ to prepare beds for new plantings—incorporate humus and animal manures except poultry. Thoroughly turn and let mellow before planting.
- ✓ to order new cultivars for fall delivery.

IRIS San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society

Now is the time—

- ✓ to prepare beds for planting—dig and revitalize the soil by digging in humus and bone-meal.
- ✓ to divide and replant bearded iris; discard the old spent rhizome.
- ✓ to dust the ends of rhizomes with sulphur.
- ✓ to feed those plants left in the ground with a high-nitrogen fertilizer this one time only.
- ✓ to cut off spuria iris foliage, but do not dig until September.
- ✓ to watch for aphids; use a light insecticide or a systemic.
- ✓ to keep iris beds clean and free of old fans and weeds.

ORCHIDS Charles Fouquette

Now is the time—

- ✓ to spray and mist on hot dry days.
- ✓ to maintain progress against pests—watch for red spider, scale, and snails.
- ✓ to feed high-nitrogen fertilizer to cymbidiums, cattleyas, and nobile dendrobiums.
- ✓ to use small amounts of fertilizer on variegata oncidiums in the morning so they will be dry by nightfall.
- ✓ to keep the potting mix of outdoor plants moist.
- ✓ to check the light intensity in glasshouses—they may need shading.
- ✓ to continue watering cymbidiums heavily-watch for burning.
- ✓ to continue to water vandaceous plants and feed during hot months with a balanced fertilizer.
- ✓ to make sure phalaenopsis are not watered overhead when there is a lot of sun.
- ✓ to try new mixes such as styrofoam and bark mixed, or charcoal and bark, or straight charcoal. On oncidiums, vandas, phals, ascocentrum use charcoal. On cattleyas, laelias, SLC use bark mixes. Use only mesquite charcoal, not oil-based charcoal.

ROSES Brian Donn

Now is the time—

- ✓ to allow the plants to slow down in producing blooms. Ease off on feeding and take a break from the spraying unless it is really needed.
- ✓ to continue to water regularly, especially in hot dry spells.
- ✓ to gently hose-off the bushes to remove accumulations of dust and spray residue.
- ✓ to treat with chelated iron those plants that have pale leaves with dark veins (chlorosis).
- ✓ to do moderate pruning in late August for abundant fall bloom.
- ✓ to mulch with steer manure to conserve water.
- ✓ to watch for rust and eradicate it; can remove infected foliage and spray with "Acti-Dion PM".

VEGETABLES George James

Now is the time—

- ✓ to transplant started celery plants to the garden.
- ✓ to make a fall, or second planting, using seeds of snap beans, summer squash, corn, cucumbers, carrots, beets, radishes, turnips, and start plants of eggplant, tomato, and peppers.
- ✓ to harvest vegetables frequently while they are young and succulent as they mature quickly during the warm months, and soon become less palatable.
- ✓ to irrigate deeply by furrow, flooding, or drip, so that plants develop a deep root system and better withstand the hot weather.
- ✓ to remove weeds while small so they do not compete with the vegetables.
- ✓ to prepare soil for later plantings by digging in organic matter and if the soil is clay or adobe use gypsum.

GREEN THUMB ITEMS Flossie Floral

Now is the time–

- ✓ to plant for fall blooms; calendulas, cornflowers, stock, snapdragons, zinnias.
- ✓ to plant or divide Shasta daisies.
- ✓ to pinch back chrysanthemums once again.
- ✓ to dig gladiolus bulbs after tops have turned yellow.
- ✓ to prepare trench with manure and fertilizer several weeks before planting sweet peas in August.
- ✓ to divide and/or move belladonna lilies after they bloom.
- ✓ to feed lawns and dichondra.
- ✓ to move or take divisions of bird-of-paradise. Move to a sunny location with excellent drainage and acid soil. Cottonseed meal can be fed year round.
- ✓ to feed azaleas–apply iron chelates if needed.

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EGYPTIANS copied the iris in architectural designs. Babylonians thought them royalty. They were cultivated in the gardens of Pompeii and in Persia. Early Mohammedans considered the iris a money symbol and planted it on graves so the dead would have wealth in the next world. It still appears as the symbol of North on compasses and maps.

OTHER GARDEN CLUBS

(Continued from Page 100)

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